

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, thank You for giving us another day.

As the Democratic Caucus prepares to leave for its retreat, bless each Member with skills and the vision to fashion pathways to bringing about what is needed for the benefit of our Nation.

Bless the Republican Conference, which remains at the Capitol, with the same gifts, consistent with their own defining skills and vision.

In Your wisdom, bless both parties with the grace that is needed to work together to benefit our people. May we all be faithful stewards of the Nation bequeathed to us by our American ancestors.

Please keep all who work for the people's House in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them in their service to the work of the Capitol.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHNEIDER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CELEBRATING SOUTH FLORIDA MENTORS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the organizations that work every day to make a positive impact in the lives of south Florida's youth.

By changing the world one woman at a time, the group, Women of Tomorrow, has transformed the lives of more than 11,000 at-risk girls by matching them with a highly accomplished professional woman and providing them with scholarship opportunities.

Another great organization, Mr. Speaker, is Take Stock in Children. It has given low-income students, most of whom come from minority families, a chance to improve their lives through college preparation programs, through scholarships, and by partnering with them with caring mentors.

Studies show that children with mentors achieve more educational success, have higher personal aspirations, and are more confident.

I would like to encourage everyone in south Florida to become a mentor and, thereby, make our community a better and safer place for our vulnerable youth.

MIDDLE CLASS JOBS CAUCUS

(Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, as debates over the meaning of last fall's elections continue, one fact is not in question: The American people want us to work together on commonsense, bipartisan solutions to grow our economy and create good-paying, middle class jobs. Neither party can meet this challenge alone.

I am proud to say that Republican Congressman MIKE GALLAGHER and I have joined together in founding the Middle Class Jobs Caucus to bring greater attention to these issues and to advance proposals to address them. The caucus will meet regularly to address a wide array of key issues facing working families, such as job training and infrastructure and transportation modernization.

Every era of prosperity in our history has been built on a thriving middle class. In the plainest terms, middle class jobs mean a strong America. I encourage all of our colleagues to join us in helping families reach the middle class and stay there.

HIPAA PRIVACY RULES SHOULD BE TWEAKED

(Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's HIPAA patient privacy laws should be improved to allow for compassionate communication between doctors, primary care-

givers, families, and patients. Recently, the editorial board of the Observer-Reporter joined the conversation in support, citing a specific instance in Greene County, Pennsylvania. They wrote:

Christopher was arrested in early December and attacked police officers at the scene. Witnessing his erratic behavior, the officers decided to take him to a hospital for a mental health evaluation.

Christopher was released from the hospital after there was apparently no communication between the hospital's medical staff and the arresting police officers.

Less than 4 weeks later, Christopher was shot to death by his brother, Ryan, in what Ryan and others described as self-defense.

If only the doctors were allowed to share limited, critically important information with the family, with law enforcement, and with supportive community specialists, this tragedy could have been avoided.

The leading predictor of success in treatment for a person with serious mental illness is family involvement. We must change Federal regulations to help, not block, treatment. Until then, there will be more sad stories like Christopher's every day.

BUILD ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE ACA

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to efforts to undo the Affordable Care Act without offering at least an equal solution for American families.

Take, for example, the story of a woman I will call Anne, a constituent who contacted my office. At 62 years old, Anne's husband lost his job of nearly 30 years. Along with a good portion of their income, her family lost the source of their health insurance. Because Anne works 29 hours per week, she does not receive healthcare benefits through her employer.

On the ACA marketplace, Anne's family was able to find affordable coverage. She says that when the bottom dropped out of her health care, the ACA was there.

She writes: "My husband, myself, and our daughter in college all work and pay taxes. I cannot fathom why our Federal Government wants to penalize us by undoing a program that is working. Work to improve the ACA. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

I could not agree more.

Repeat and run is irresponsible and will hurt real people like Anne. We need to build on the foundation of the ACA so more of our families have access to quality, affordable health care.

FORMER-LEADER ROBERT "BOB" MICHEL

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1